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Demjanjuk decision coming this week

Reporter John McCaslin has this follow-up report: Asked why Cleveland's chief U.S. District judge, Frank J. Battisti, did not hand down a scheduled Friday ruling on the controversial extra-

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dition case of retired autoworker John Demjanjuk, an amused court clerk told The Times, "We just didn't get all the information together."

Judge Battisti's decision, now "expected sometime this week," according to the clerk, is no laughing matter to Mr. Demjanjuk, who faces deportation to Israel to stand trial for the deaths of thousands of Jews. Six witnesses, the U.S. Justice Department and the Soviet KGB all claim the 30-year resident of Cleveland is the Nazi war criminal "Ivan the Terrible." The retired Ford Motor Co. worker denies the charges.

The Times quoted defense attorney Mark O'Connor last Friday as saying he has evidence "of perjured government witness testimony, affirmative misconduct, altered and fraudulent Russian proof . . . by the Soviet KGB," all of which "has been dismissed or disregarded by Judge Battisti, despite numerous defense motions requesting a fair hearing of these serious charges."